



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Rd
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Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

July 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPANISH MACKEREL BUYERS AND HARVESTERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL SPANISH MACKEREL BYCATCH PROVISION

On July 28, 2020, the Commission approved changes to Chapter 4 VAC 20-540-10 et seq, "Pertaining to Spanish and King Mackerel", by Emergency Regulation. On July 17, 2020, National Marine Fisheries Service announced a commercial federal waters closure for the Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Northern Zone, to take effect 12:01 am on July 22, 2020.

Beginning 12:01 am August 3, 2020, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or land in Virginia any amount of Spanish mackerel in excess of 500 pounds from any vessel in any one day. This bycatch provision will be in place until March 1, 2021, when the Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Northern Zone reopens in federal waters.

To view this regulation in its entirety please go to www.mrc.virginia.gov.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Olivia Phillips at 757-247-2267.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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